(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Department of Education had received a project proposal of Tripura University seeking one time special Central Assistance of Rs. 20.52 crore for construction of buildings for academic and administrative departments, development of infrastructural facilities for the University complex and extension of academic curriculum. The Department of Education do not provide financial assistance to the Universities directly. Development assistance to the Universities is provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Accordingly, the proposal of Tripura University has been forwarded to UGC for appropriate consideration.

Non-Alignment Movement

3417. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have expressed firm commitment to building and revive the Non-Alignment Movement as an instrument for promoting peace, disarmament and development and for creating a "just world order";

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is considering to revive the foreign policy and also revive the NAM; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Non-alignment, implying independence of thought and autonomy of action, has been and remains a central element of our foreign policy. India, is committed to playing a constructive role, in cooperation with all other NAM countries, to enhance the role of the Movement. India would be hosting the XII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi from April 7-8, 1997, which will inter-alia focus on the steps required for strengthening the Movement.

Compensation by United Nations

3418. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) have released funds towards compensation in respect of settlement of claims of Indians under 'B' category;

(b) if so, the quantum of the money and the number of claims for which the said funds have been released;

(c) whether any other Indian claims under other categories are still pending with the UNCC; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to settle the claims of Indians and Indian companies by the UN Compensation Commission at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) have released US$ 700,000 towards compensation in respect of 183 category "B" claims.

(c) The other claims filed by individuals, corporate bodies and Government of India fall in "A", "C", "D", "E" and "F" categories. Though some of the Indian claims in category "A" and category "C" have already been approved by the UNCC, no funds in their respect have been received so far. None of the Indian claims in categories "D", "E" and "F" has been approved by the UNCC so far.

(d) Government of India's role in settling these claims is that of a "facilitator". When the U.N. announced the setting up of the UN Compensation Commission, the Government of India had advertised it widely in the leading national dailies advising the people concerned to file their claims as per the UNCC format and by a certain date specified by the UNCC. The applications thus received were sent to the UNCC, Geneva through the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva.

It is exclusively for the UNCC to examine these claims and decide their admissibility and the amount of compensation which the claimant is entitled to. The Government of India have been maintaining close liaison with the UNCC. It has made adequate arrangements for quick disbursal of funds through four nationalised banks.

[Translation]

Konar Irrigation Project in Bihar

3419. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Konar Irrigation project in Bokaro district of Bihar is in progress;

(b) if so, when the said project was under taken;

(c) the initial estimated cost as also the present estimated cost of the project;

(d) the sources from where funds have been mobilised for execution of the project and the quantum of funds received/released so far for this project; and

(e) the detials of the progress made in the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?